

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Alabama Department of Public Safety

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### ***Public Safety Certifies New Driver License Issuance Rule, Revises Documentation Required for Proof of Identity***

MONTGOMERY — The Alabama Department of Public Safety has certified a new rule defining acceptable documentation for proof of identity for driver license applicants, according to DPS Director Col. Mike Coppage. Coppage said driver license personnel are receiving training in the new requirements, which become effective May 17.

Coppage said the Department of Public Safety has worked with colleges and universities, legislators, Alabama's corporate community, immigrant groups and others to formulate the rule change. "The state's focus with regard to this issue is positive identification of every driver license applicant, including foreign nationals," he said. "This is not an issue of immigration, but an issue of positive identification. All applicants must prove their lawful presence.

"We have adopted the broadest possible range of acceptable visas and other documentation of immigrants to allow for licensing and, at the same time, ensure positive identification and protect the integrity of Alabama's driver licensing system," said Coppage. "In effect, this rule defines driver license eligibility in terms of identification."

Coppage said driver licensing for immigrants will be conducted at eight regional sites where driver license personnel have received extensive training in documentation for immigrants. The sites are Huntsville, Decatur, Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, Montgomery, Opelika, Dothan and Mobile.

Under the rule, persons lawfully present in the United States under the following visa categories are eligible to apply for licensing: A, B, E, F, G-4, H, I, J, K, L, M, NATO, O, P, Q, R, S, T, TN, TD, TPS or U. F and M visa-holders also must present Form I-20; J-1 and J-2 visa-holders also must present Form DS-2019 or IAP-66.

Foreign nationals are encouraged to contact one of the eight regional driver license offices after May 17 in regard to which immigration documents they will be required to furnish to apply for an Alabama driver license or nondriver photo identification card.

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